

March 3, 1980

LB 613

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried the bill is advanced. The next bill is LB 613.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 613 was introduced by Senator Simon. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 9. It was referred to Revenue, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments by the Revenue Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows, your light is on. Sorry, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move for the adoption of the committee amendments. The committee amendments combines the provisions of a bill, LB 783, with 613 and the amendment provides that the 7% lid law would not apply to any political subdivision which has a combined receipt budget base under \$25,000. Now the bill as it was originally drawn, 613, dealt with the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. We are aware that there are other subdivisions in the state that are operating under a tremendous burden with the 7% lid that we did not provide for originally and it was felt, the committee felt that in light of all of this that we should combine the two. I would again urge the body to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now, Senator Burrows, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments? Okay, the Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, the committee amendments are substantially the contents of a bill that Senator Hefner and I cosponsored. This bill exempts the \$25,000 and under subdivisions and the general application of this is to township governments and rural fire districts across the state. We both looked this over and historically both these groups have rather gyrating budgets, highs and lows for a period of years. Sometimes a fire district levies only a few hundred dollars a year. Then to even repair a fire engine they are outside the budget limitations and frequently in these extremely small subdivisions, taking the issue before a vote of the voters is as expensive as what the increased budget would be. It is totally unworkable in these extremely small packages where the subdivision came in with a very tightfisted budget. Another rationale behind exempting these is the fact that in the extremely small subdivisions in almost every case the people of that subdivision personally know the people that are spending the money. They know the first name of the township board member, the people in the fire districts and we have an extremely tightfisted group of people and at the time the lid bill was passed, I had no complaints against the small subdivisions as an impetus for passing the original lid legislation. I think it is important that we